NASA Glenn Research Center
AEROSPACE Frontiers
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Workshop affirms Agency commitment to Vision for Space Exploration

BY DOREEN ZUDELL

In a dynamic One NASA Leader-Led Workshop at Glenn on December 10, Agency leaders affirmed the Agency's commitment to strengthening NASA and implementing the Vision for Space Exploration.

Photo by Marvin Smith C-2005-1862

Left to right, Dr. Lebacqz, Kicza, and Steidle during a panel discussion at the One NASA Leader-Led Workshop.

The workshop featured briefings and a panel discussion with questions from the audience. Associate Administrator for Systems Integration Mary Kicza, Associate Administrator for Exploration Systems Admiral Craig Steidle, and Associate Administrator for the Aeronautics Research Directorate Dr. Victor Lebacqz joined Center Director Dr. Julian Earls to describe the Agency's transformation, its progress toward achievement of the Vision for Space Exploration, and the

Continued on page 2

Brook Park remains a candidate for NASA Shared Services Center

Headquarters news release

NASA announced on January 7 that Brook Park, OH, just outside Glenn's gates, is one of three possible site locations for the NASA Shared Services Center (NSSC). Huntsville, AL, near NASA Marshall, and NASA's Stennis Space Center, MS, are also being considered.

NASA is creating an NSSC to consolidate a variety of transactional and administrative activities being done at each NASA center in the functional areas of Human Resources, Information Technology, Procurement, and Financial Management.

Continued on page 8

Administrator Sean O'Keefe resigns

NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe, 48, who over the past 3 years led the Agency through an aggressive and comprehensive management transformation and helped it through one of its most painful tragedies, has resigned.

O'Keefe

"I've been honored to serve this President, the American people, and my talented colleagues here at NASA," O'Keefe said. "Together, we've enjoyed unprecedented success and seen each other through arduous circumstances. This was the most difficult decision I've ever made, but it's one I felt was best for my family and our future."

Continued on page 8

Inside

Workshop highlighted transformation strategies

Continued from page 1

role Glenn plays within the Mission Directorate and the Vision for Space Exploration.

Kicza, who spoke on Agency transformation and implementation strategies, said, "We've experienced a huge amount of success during the course of the year and a huge amount of change."

Kicza reviewed Agency milestones and attributed these accomplishments to NASA's technical, organizational, and people excellence. She emphasized transformation imperatives that the Agency is focusing on: Return to Flight (RTF), improving the Agency, transforming the space program, and improving the way the Federal Government does business.

She stressed that NASA core values must support these imperatives. "We must challenge one another to live these values," she said. "It really takes courage to be honest. . .tell the people the truth. . . challenge ourselves to walk the talk."

Steidle gave an update on achieving the Vision for Space Exploration with the objectives of sustainable and affordable human and robotic programs to explore the solar system and beyond. He acknowledged the importance of the formation of the Exploration Systems Directorate with Harry Cikanek as Glenn's lead and Bryan Smith as acting deputy. Steidle highlighted the 18 key presidential direction goals, with RTF and completion of the International Space Station at the top of the list. He also previewed the major milestones NASA will work towards in the next 10 years and discussed the role of technology development and the plan for balancing competition with collaboration among centers.

Steidle noted Glenn's success and recent awards for extramural tasks in achieving the Vision for Space Exploration. He cited the Center's nuclear electric propulsion efforts as the linchpin of the Vision for Space Exploration. "Accomplishments in this area will be essential for everything we do towards achieving the Vision," he said.

The overall message included an imperative for all NASA employees (civil servants and support service contractors) to act as one body and to present a united front for the Agency to be successful in meeting and achieving the exciting challenges that lie ahead.

Following the updates, Earls moderated a panel discussion including Kicza, Steidle, and Lebacqz, who shared further insight into areas such as cultural change, procurement, nurturing and maturing technical excellence, space flight systems development, and budgeting. The panel stressed that Glenn and each of the other NASA centers must work to maintain and emphasize their core competencies in order to be part of NASA's future direction. ◆

One NASA Peer Awards given

Glen Horvat, Space Propulsion and Mission Analysis Office, and Jennifer Jones, an AlphaPort employee supporting the Security Management and Safeguards Office, were the recipients of a One NASA Peer Award at the Center's Leader-Led Workshop held December 10. This new award program allows members of the NASA family (both civil servants and contractors) to celebrate and reward One NASA philosophy demonstrated by an individual or team from anywhere across the Agency.

The program features three "nonmonetary" awards—Individual/Team Award, Center's Best Award, and Agencywide Best of the Best Award—that merit increasing levels of visibility and recognition. Selections are based on one or more of the following themes: decisionmaking for the common good; collaborating to leverage existing capabilities; and exercising standards that demonstrate efficiency.

Photo by Marvin Smith C-2004-1862

One NASA Peer Award winners, second row, isle, Horvat and Jones were among a packed audience in the DEB Auditorium during the Leader-Led Workshop.

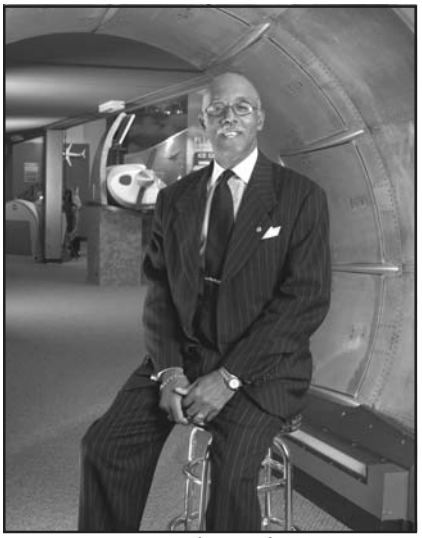
Horvat and Jones both received recognition in the category of Individual Award.

Horvat was recognized for his role in developing collaborative tools and infrastructure to aid propulsion efforts at NASA's Jet Propulsion Lab, Johnson Space Center, and Marshall Space Flight Center supporting the Agency's space exploration mission. Jones was recognized for promoting and educating workgroups on Process Based Mission Assurance, an Agencywide knowledge management tool created to standardize Safety and Mission Assurance.

A form to nominate a person or team observed demonstrating One NASA philosophy can be found on www.onenasa.nasa.gov. Efforts being recognized must involve participation from multiple Centers. ◆

From the Director. . .

Year's work well done



Dr. Julian Earls

As I look back on last year, I am proud of the many dedicated people who made great things happen in 2004. We actively demonstrated our commitment to the Agency's number 1 priority to return the shuttle safely to flight. We successfully completed several ballistic impact test runs to validate new models for impact damage characterization. In addition, we completed several successful runs in our large supersonic wind tunnels to determine possible debris generation sites and invented materials such as GRABER to make on-orbit repairs. Also, we raised important safety issues with the age of the Braycote grease in the shuttle's rudder speed brake.

The in-space propulsion program achieved success through the completion of a one-tenth-scale solar sail test at Plum Brook. The solar sail may someday harness the solar wind to propel payloads through the solar system and eliminate the need for propellant onboard. We installed a new space simulation facility, Vacuum Facility 16, for electric propulsion research in to test ion thrusters.

In aeronautics, we acquired a U.S. Navy S–3 Viking aircraft for airborne icing research on swept-wing aircraft. Turbine engine source noise reduction concepts were successfully evaluated in lab rig tests, an aspirating seal demonstrated an improvement in turbine engine efficiency, and successful emission reduction technology was demonstrated.

Our technical excellence once again was evidenced by our winning 24 major awards including three *R&D 100* awards and many Space Act Awards. The world's first atomically flat, defect-free silicon carbide gas sensors were fabricated and tested, and a patent was awarded to NASA. In addition, Glenn's planning process for scientific and engineering technical training received the W. Edward Deming Outstanding Training Award from the Graduate School, United States Department of Agriculture.

In June, we opened our doors to the public with a highly successful Journey to Tomorrow Technology Showcase and Open House. In 3 days, over 35,000 visitors toured our unique facilities and participated in hands-on educational activities.

There are many other significant accomplishments that are not included here but are nonetheless important to the Center and NASA. I thank each and every one of you for your efforts to enhance the reputation of the Center within the Agency and among the external community.

As I look forward to the new year, I am optimistic. On December 8, 2004, President Bush signed into law the FY05

Continued on page 9

Space shuttle external tank arrives at Kennedy

All NASA elements are now in place for the space shuttle to return to flight with the arrival of the external tank to the Agency's Kennedy Space Center.

The tank was taken to the Vehicle Assembly Building (VAB) for a final checkout. It will eventually be attached to the twin solid rocket boosters and the Space Shuttle *Discovery* for its Return to Flight (RTF) mission, STS–114.

Photo courtesty of NASA Kennedy

The newly redesigned external tank turns the corner of the Launch Complex 39 Area Turn Basin parking area on its way to the VAB.

"This improved tank will be the safest we've ever flown. The modifications we have made will ensure the shuttle completes its long-term mission of assembling the International Space Station," said Michael Kostelnik, deputy associate administrator for International Space Station and Space Shuttle programs.

NASA and Lockheed Martin Corporation spent nearly 2 years modifying the 15-story, rust-colored tank to make it safer. Among dozens of changes is a redesigned forward bipod fitting to reduce the risk to the shuttle from falling debris during ascent. Reducing the debris risk was a key recommendation of the Columbia Accident Investigation Board.

The RTF mission is targeted for a launch window beginning in May. The seven-member *Discovery* crew will fly to the International Space Station primarily to test and evaluate new procedures for flight safety, shuttle inspections, and repair techniques.

For information on NASA's RTF efforts, including fact sheets and photos about the tank shipment, visit http://www.nasa.gov/returntoflight. ◆

78 employees take buyout/earlyout

NASA offers Voluntary Separation Incentive

This year, the holidays brought some Glenn civil service employees an early retirement. The Voluntary Separation Incentive (buyout) Plan submitted to Headquarters on September 14, 2004, was approved on December 9, 2004, and offered to no more than 148 employees in 15 different competencies.

Decisions about whether or not to take advantage of the buyout had to be made in a short amount of time. Applications were accepted through December 22, employees were notified the week of December 28, and separations took effect December 31 through January 3, 2005. Priority was given to employees with the earliest Federal service computation dates within the competency category. Buyout options were provided at amounts up to $25,000 (the maximum allowable by law).

Glenn's Human Resources and Workforce Planning Office reported that a total of 66 Glenn employees retired under the buyout—56 under optional retirement and 10 under earlyout authority. Additionally, 12 employees retired—7 under optional retirement and 5 under earlyout authority, bringing the total to 78 employees covered by the buyout and/or earlyout plan. Another 4 employees retired under optional retirement (without buyout or earlyout options).

The competency areas where buyout options were being offered included Engineering and Science Support, Propulsion Systems and Testing, Research Facility Planning, Advanced Materials and Processing Science, Analytical and Computational Structural Methods, Combustion Science, Commercial Technology, Electron Device Technology, Control Systems Guidance and Navigation, Mechanical Systems, Structural Systems, Software Engineering, Administrative Support, Human Resources, and Financial Management.

Engineering and Science Support generated the largest number of separations under the buyout at the Center. Forty-one out of a possible 75 employees retired from this area. Employees leaving Software Engineering totaled 7 out of a possible 10. Four out of 9 available buyout slots were accepted in Combustion Science. While most competency categories attained at least 1 separation under the buyout, employees in the areas of Analytical and Computational Structural Methods and Financial Management did not exercise the buyout option.

The buyout was designed to resize and rebalance skill levels at the Center. An assessment of competencies needed for Glenn's programs and projects during fiscal years 2007 and 2010 took place before buyout options were offered. These changes will allow Glenn to become more competitive and play a significant role in support of the Vision for Space Exploration.

AeroSpace Frontiers will be publishing information on employees who opted for the buyout and/or earlyout in upcoming issues. ◆

Glenn earns 10 Space Act Awards

Ten Glenn-developed technologies were selected to receive the 2004 NASA Space Act Awards by the NASA Inventions and Contributions Board. Space Act Awards are monetary awards for outstanding scientific or technical contributions sponsored, adopted, supported, or used by NASA that are significant to aeronautics and space activities.

Cockpit Weather Receiver for General Aviation Pilots: Glenn Lindamood and Allen Tucholski (AKAC), Engineering and Technical Services Directorate, and Konstantinos Martzaklis, Programs and Projects Directorate

Planar Particle Imaging Doppler Velocimetry: Mark Wernet, Research and Technology Directorate

Ceramic Composites for High Temperature Engine Components: Dr. Jim DiCarlo, Hee Man Yun (CSU), Gregory Morscher (OAI), and Ramakrishna Bhatt (Army), Research and Technology Directorate

Particle Image Velocimetry Acquisition: Mark Wernet, Research and Technology Directorate

Chemical Equilibrium With Applications: Bonnie McBride and Russ Claus, Research and Technology Directorate, and Dr. Minn Chao, Office of the Chief Information Officer

Morrison Motor: Carlos Morrison, Research and Technology Directorate

Modular Aerospace Propulsion System Simulation: Khary Parker, Dr. Ten-Huei Guo, and Kevin Melcher, Research and Technology Directorate

Affordable Robust Ceramic Joining Technology: Dr. Mrityunjay Singh (QSS), Research and Technology Directorate

Spacesuit Audio System to Enable Robotic Verbal Interaction: Mark Seibert, Research and Technology Directorate

Nanometer Step Height System: Dr. Phil Abel, Dr. Phil Neudeck, Tony Powell (SEST), and Andrew Trunek (OAI), Research and Technology Directorate ◆

Ask the Director

Q. With the Workforce Flexibility Act having been passed in several phases over the last couple of years, why have we not been able to take advantage of it yet? Last year, I tried to take advantage of the benefit to help new hires pay off their student loans. I was told that Glenn was not authorized, even though this particular benefit had been passed into law months before. Why was I constrained from taking advantage of this employment benefit? More of this type of legislation has now been passed; will we be told the same thing in the future?

A. (11/09/04) The NASA Flexibility Act of 2004 was signed by President Bush in February 2004 and, by law, the first date that NASA was eligible to utilize the flexibilities was July 8, 2004. The program you refer to, however, the Federal Student Loan Repayment Program, was implemented well before (and not as a part of) the NASA Flexibility Act of 2004. The Federal Student Loan Repayment Program requires, by law, that agencies establish a student loan repayment plan before paying any student loans. Glenn established its plan (Personnel Policy Statement OHRWP–16) on December 18, 2003; before that date, we were not authorized to pay any student loans. The criteria for consideration for this benefit are very specific; managers are encouraged to reference the policy and consult their servicing human resources specialist with any questions. Regarding your second question, most human resources-related flexibility legislation requires establishment of an agency policy or plan before it can be used. The development, coordination, and approval process for such policies and plans often takes some time. We are committed to utilizing every possible avenue to recruit and maintain an excellent workforce.

Q. In a [recent] Town Hall meeting, Senator Voinovich made remarks about the "3600 dedicated employees" at Glenn. This number seems to include support service contractors. Does the new legislation discussed address retaining or recruiting the broad spectrum of expertise (not ready to retire) held within the onsite support service contractors?

A. (11/09/04) Yes, it does. As currently written, the NASA Flexibility Act of 2004 pertains specifically to current civil servants and recruitment of highly qualified individuals for civil service positions. More specific information regarding the legislation and the Workforce Plan developed that details Glenn's use of flexibilities can be found at http://nasapeople.nasa.gov/hclwp/index.htm.

The above questions were chosen by the Director as a sampling from the Ask the Director *Web site.* ◆

News Notes

FUN, FREE, AND EDUCATIONAL: Join the Visitor Center as it continues its popular Third-Saturday-of-the-Month special event series and learn more about planned robotic and human exploration of the solar system. The "Vision for Space Exploration" program will be held on February 19 with presentations at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Free photos will be available at the "Picture Yourself in Space" digital photo booth, "Make and Take" craft activities for kids, and handouts. Reservations are suggested for the presentations. For more information or to make reservations, call 216–433–9653 or e-mail http://visit. grc.nasa.gov.

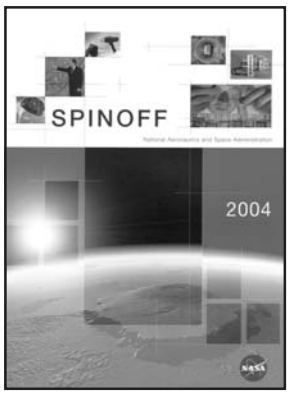
LESA MEETING: LESA/IFPTE, Local 28, will hold its next monthly membership meeting on Wednesday, February 9, at noon in the Employee Center,

WOMEN RETIREES LUNCHEON: The next luncheon for Glenn female retirees will be Thursday, February 17, noon at Donauschwaben's German American Cultural Center, 7370 Columbia Road, Olmsted Township. For further information, contact Shirley Joseph, 440–322–5494.

AFGE MEETING: AFGE Local 2182 will hold its next monthly membership meeting on Wednesday, March 2, at 5 p.m., at Denny's Restaurant, 25912 Lorain Road, North Olmsted. All members are encouraged to attend.

Top NASA innovation publication available

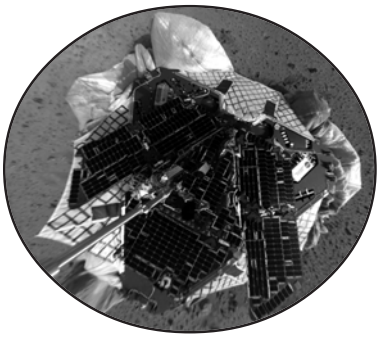
Spinoff 2004, NASA's premiere publication featuring 51 of the latest Agency innovations transferred to the commercial market (including 4 Glenn-sponsored SBIR contracts), is available online and in hard copy. Online versions of *Spinoff*, beginning with the 1996 issue, are available at http://www.sti.nasa.gov/tto/. For a hard copy or to order an interactive compact disc (available soon) call the National Technology Transfer Center, 800–678–6882.



AeroSpace Frontiers

2004 Year in Review

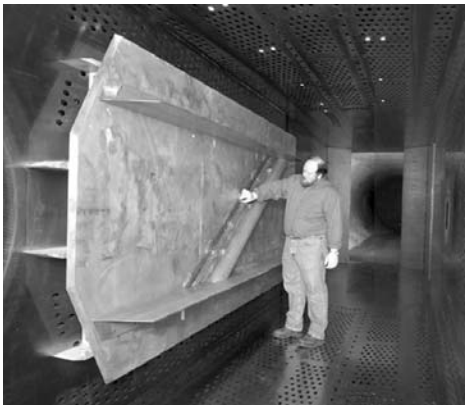
On January 14, President Bush unveiled a new Vision for Space Exploration, calling on NASA to "gain a new foothold on the Moon and to prepare for new journeys to the worlds beyond our own."



The airbags that ensured a safe landing for twin rovers *Spirit* and *Opportunity* in January were tested in Plum Brook Station's Space Power Facility.

Neil Armstong, the first human to set foot on the Moon, traveled to Glenn on the 35th anniversary of the Apollo 11 mission to attend a NASA Update. The event, featuring Administrator Sean O'Keefe and Center Director Dr. Julian Earls, was broadcasted live from the Electric Propulsion Laboratory in July.

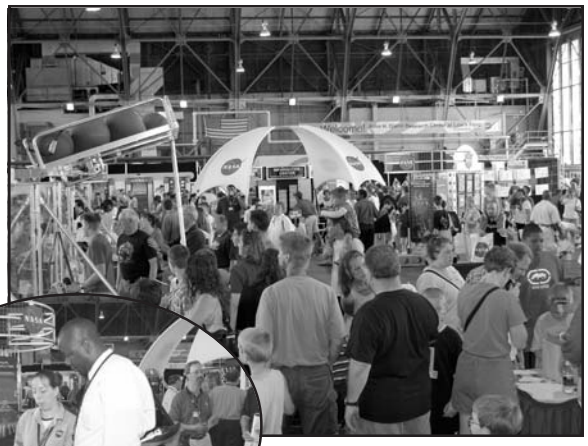
Glenn personnel, accompanied by astronauts, visited all 11 NASA Explorer Schools in the Center's six-state region this year to share the Agency's Vision for Space Exploration with the next generation of explorers.



Glenn honored over 200 employees who contributed to the Agency's Return to Flight (RTF) efforts during a symposium in October. The event highlighted the Center's technological efforts and invited employees to view demonstrations within facilities where work had a direct impact on RTF efforts.

In an Agencywide Day of Remembrance to honor the *Apollo 1, Challenger,* and *Columbia* crews, and all others who have given their lives in the cause of exploration and discovery, Glenn placed a wreath at the base of the new astronaut memorial wall in the lobby of the Visitor Center. The Center also dedicated a new public exhibit—the Combustion Module-2 Crew Trainer—in memory of *Columbia's* crew.

Glenn and the city of Cleveland celebrated the reopening of the Small Multipurpose Research Facility in a dedication ceremony in October. The facility was relocated to clear the path of the new runway at Cleveland Hopkins International Airport. Local dignitaries, including Mayor Jane Campbell, joined the celebration.



Glenn's Journey to Tomorrow open house welcomed over 35,000 visitors of all ages on June 12 and 13 and over 400 leaders and technologists outside of NASA during a Technology Showcase on June 14.

Cleveland State University and Glenn formed the Center for Research in Electronics and Aerospace Technology (CREATE) in August to advance the state-of-the-art of power technology in the private sector. Other significant partnerships aimed at promoting work with the private sector included the Center for Space Medicine with the Cleveland Clinic Foundation and Glenn Alliance for Technology Exchange (GATE) with OAI and Battelle.

Nearly 700 Erie County residents and guests viewed *Of Ashes and Atoms: A Documentary on the NASA Plum Brook Station Reactor Facility* at the Sandusky State Theatre.

The March delivery of an S–3 Viking, a former Navy aircraft, provided a boost to NASA's Aviation Safety and Security Program and the future of its icing flight research capabilities.

Senator George Voinovich accepted a plaque from Administrator O'Keefe for sponsoring the NASA Workforce Flexibility Act during a special briefing, where Ohio legislators and business leaders endorsed Glenn's proposal for the NASA Shared Services Center.

Glenn's Embedded Web Technology team partnered with MetroHealth Medical Center to develop an early warning system that measures and tracks astronauts heart activity remotely on the ground via the Internet.

Glenn completed testing on an advanced high-speed inlet for propulsion systems to power air transport vehicles at supersonic speeds.

NSSC sites narrowed down to three locations

Continued from page 1

The NSSC will be a separate NASA center and report to Headquarters. The NSSC is designed to achieve efficient and effective service; improved data quality; standardized processes; economies of scale; and leveraged personnel skills and investments.

The NSSC will work collaboratively with NASA centers to meet their service needs via a contact center. This will allow NASA organizations to focus more time on their core work and strategic initiatives. Each NASA center will have a resident Customer Service Liaison to ensure timely and efficient service.

NASA would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Agency centers, community site partners, and other participants for their patience, diligence, and hard work in support of the NSSC site-selection process. The time and effort will go a long way toward ensuring the success of the NSSC for NASA.

On September 13, 2004, NASA released the final Request for Proposal (RFP) for the NSSC. The RFP required potential offerors to select one of six approved locations for the NSSC. The RFP submission deadline was November 8, 2004.

The final selection and award for the NSSC competition is scheduled for May 2005. For more information about the NSSC and the selection process on the Internet, visit http://nssc.nasa.gov/. ◆

New business is everyone's business

NASA Glenn's reorganization last year was the first step toward ensuring the Center's role in NASA's vision as well as responding to other national needs. In December, Glenn's senior management met to begin outlining the steps necessary to further define the Center's strategic direction and improve the capture of new business. The next part of the journey will focus on harnessing Glenn's human capital: creativity, energy, and skill.

"The development of new and important roles for Glenn within NASA and as a national laboratory is a high priority of the Center leadership," said Center Director Dr. Julian Earls. "As a team, we can make Glenn a more vibrant and exciting place to work through the generation of new business areas."

Over the next few months, Glenn employees will be invited to join in forums and working groups aimed at opening avenues for proposing new business ideas, improving decisionmaking processes, and enhancing proposal skills. Additional information, resources, and business tools can be found at the Center's recently launched new business Web site, http://newbiz.grc.nasa.gov. ◆

Administrator will bid farewell to NASA

Continued from page 1

Shortly after he was sworn in as NASA's 10th Administrator on December 21, 2001, O'Keefe focused his efforts on bringing financial credibility to the Agency and eliminating a $5 billion budget shortfall for the International Space Station program. He introduced a number of innovative management and budget reforms. He led all Federal agencies in the implementation of the President's Management Agenda, which is designed to make government more responsive and efficient. In three of the original five categories on the Agenda, NASA's performance is at the highest standard.

O'Keefe also directed significant changes in the space shuttle's safety and management programs. He was a key architect of President George W. Bush's new Vision for Space Exploration, which transformed NASA and positioned the Agency to meet the challenges of safely returning the space shuttle to flight; completing the International Space Station; exploring the complexities of our home planet; and going back to the Moon, on to Mars, and beyond.

During his tenure, O'Keefe realized a number of significant mission triumphs, including *Cassini's* exploration of Saturn and its moons, the recent successful hypersonic test flights of the X–43A and the historic landing of the twin Mars Exploration Rovers Spirit and Opportunity on the Red Planet in January.

Encouraging students to study mathematics, science, and technology was a priority for the former Administrator. In April 2002, O'Keefe unveiled a new Educator Astronaut Program, in which a select few of the most outstanding teachers would be chosen to join NASA's Astronaut Corps.

"NASA is the only Agency in the world where its people are allowed to dream big and then work to make those dreams come true. Who wouldn't treasure the opportunity to be a part of pioneering history?" O'Keefe said. "I'm humbled by the dedication and determination of the NASA family and their commitment to the future of exploration. I wish each of them the very best. I am confident in their ability to carry out what we've started." ◆

Glenn concludes 2004 Combined Federal Campaign

Glenn Federal employees proved once again that "Time Never Runs Out for Caring." During the 2004 Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), the Center set a new donation record by raising $410,292.40 for local and worldwide nonprofit charities.

In addition to exceeding its monetary goal of $370,000 by over $40,000, Glenn increased its average gift per donor from $354.87 in 2003 to $387.07 in 2004. The number of Leadership donors also increased by over 100 people and at higher giving levels (such as Millennium, Super Eagle, etc.). Online donation pledges rose substantially as well—from 45 percent in 2002 to 75 percent in 2004.

"The success of the 2004 campaign is the result of a collaborative effort involving the entire Glenn community—the CFC team of committee members and keyworkers who worked tirelessly, Center management who provided their full support, and all of our generous employees who showed true community spirit," said Glenn's CFC Chair Lesley Janosik, Life Prediction Branch.

The committee added new enthusiasm to Glenn's annual campaign by successfully implementing three new fundraising events this year: a Labwide picnic during the car show and ice cream social, a basket raffle drawing where volunteers solicited donations from Center employees and local merchants and assembled 18 unique baskets, and the "I Want a Blimp Ride" raffle for a ride on the Goodyear blimp. The kickoff ceremonies in September featured Michael "Campy" Russell of the Cleveland Cavaliers and an agency fair, which allowed employees to get more information about the local nonprofit agencies that will benefit from the CFC campaign.

"Glenn is consistently one of the top donors during the annual Northeast Ohio CFC campaign (which expanded this year to include eight additional counties) and this year is no exception," Janosik said. "Year after year, Glenn really shows that time never runs out for caring." ◆

CFC 2004 events, from bottom, left to right: (1) agency fair, (2) car show, (3) kickoff with Campy Russell, (4) ice cream social and picnic.

Center Director looks back, ahead

Continued from page 3

Omnibus Appropriations Bill, which gives $16.2 billion to NASA for FY05. NASA received an increase, which amounted to 5 percent above last year's budget at a time when most other agencies received a flat budget or a decrease. We have strong support for the President's Vision for Space Exploration.

Our world-class research, technology, and capability development efforts are critical to advancing the exploration of our solar system and maintaining our global leadership in aeronautics. There are clear signs that our core competencies are being acknowledged by key NASA decisionmakers. Our active participation in Project Prometheus has prepared us well to take on additional challenges for Project Constellation, which is critical to implementing the Vision for Space Exploration. Our core competencies in aeropropulsion, space propulsion, power systems, nuclear systems, communications, and human-related systems will provide a strong foundation to meet NASA's toughest challenges and will position us well into the future.

Thank you for your contributions to the many successes that we enjoyed in 2004 and for your continued enthusiasm and dedication to NASA. May you and your families enjoy a safe, happy, and healthy year in 2005. ◆

People

Promotions


Schabes

Harvey Schabes has been selected deputy director of the Center Operations Directorate. Formerly systems management lead in the Office of Strategic Management, Schabes was responsible for providing oversight of independent assessments of Glenn programs and projects and assisting in defining the Center's strategic plans and policies. Prior to that assignment, he served the office as space program lead for the alignment and integration of the program initiatives with Center programs and goals. Since joining Glenn in 1983, Schabes has also amassed a variety of Center experience including as icing research engineer, operations engineer for development and systems integration, and shuttle integration manager for the Joint Solar Dynamic project in the U.S./Russian program. His experiences offer a unique background and breadth of knowledge for his new position.


Dr. Shyne

Dr. Rickey Shyne has been appointed deputy director of the Safety and Mission Assurance Directorate. Formerly chief of the Nozzle Branch in the Research and Technology Directorate, Shyne managed Glenn's research programs on nozzles for aeronautics and space propulsion applications. During his 21-year NASA career, Shyne has amassed extensive experience in propulsion technologies and served on numerous NASA and government advisory committees, including Headquarters' Aeronautics Red Team and the FAA/NASA Joint Planning Office National Research and Development Team. He also served as co-lead for Glenn's cultural transformation efforts over the past year. Shyne completed the Senior Executive Service Candidate Program and was certified in March 2002.


Taylor

John Taylor, a member of the senior executive core has been reassigned to chief, Exploration Systems Division, Programs and Projects Directorate. In his new position, Taylor will oversee the work of several project offices, including Constellation Systems, Exploration Systems Research and Technology, Human Health and Performance Systems, Life Support and Habitation, Nuclear Technology and Demonstration, and Mission Operations and Integration. Taylor joined NASA in 1982, and since that time has progressed through the ranks as a manager on the Space Station Freedom program, in the Space Experiments Division, and in the Engineering and Technical Services Directorate. Most recently, Taylor served as chief, Engineering Development Division, where he managed the in-house development engineering and manufacturing performed at Glenn in support of the Center's aeronautics and space projects, including Microgravity, Space Station, Space Transportation, and Vehicle Systems.

Awards


Carek

Gerald "Jerry" Carek, Large Space Structures Testing Branch, received the prestigious NASA Exceptional Service Medal from NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in appreciation for outstanding achievements in the successful test qualification program for the Mars Exploration Rovers (MER) airbags at Glenn's Plum Brook Station. Carek is the facility manager of the Space Power Facility (SPF), which houses the world's largest space environment simulation chamber. The SPF was used to simulate the Mars atmosphere necessary for testing the MER airbags.


Scales

Charles Scales, Glenn's director of Operations, received a Certificate of Appreciation signed by Dr. Dorothy Hayden-Watkins, assistant administrator in the Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity at Headquarters. The certificate notes his significant contributions to the objective of integrating diversity principles and model workplace practices into the NASA culture as NASA Marshall's former director, Equal Opportunity Office.


Wessel

NASA's Kennedy Space Center Director James Kennedy recently presented **Vernon "Bill" Wessel,** Glenn's director of the Safety and Mission Assurance Directorate, with a Kennedy Gold Dollar Award. The award was bestowed "in honor of (his) commitment to safety, teamwork and innovation, and willingness to go above and beyond normal job requirements to assure mission success and customer satisfaction."

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DEADLINES: News items and brief announcements for publication in the March issue must be received by noon, February 10. The deadline for the April issue is noon, March 11. Submit contributions to the editor via e-mail, doreen.zudell@grc.nasa.gov, fax 216–433–8143, phone 216–433–5317 or 216–433–2888, or MS 3–11. Ideas for news stories are welcome but will be published as space allows. View us online at http://AeroSpaceFrontiers.grc.nasa.gov.

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In Appreciation

My sincere appreciation for all of the thoughts, prayers, and other expressions of condolence that I received following the passing of my mother, Nora Fails. They were comforting in a time of great loss. **—Bob Fails**

A special thanks to all the Glenn Research employees for their condolences and support during the recent death of my mother. **—Ed Kostyack and family**

Corbin Tucker, age 1, died on November 25 from acute myloid leukemia. The parents and grandparents would like to thank those NASA employees who were so kind during a very difficult time in their lives. Your prayers, help, and generous donations for a fundraiser have touched our hearts.
—Tucker-Fiedler families

In Memory

Marc Hudson, 58, who retired September 1, 2004, after 30 years of NASA service, recently died. He was a procurement specialist and senior contracting officer for the Services and Construction Branch of the Procurement Division. Earlier in his career at Glenn, Hudson oversaw contracts for the Launch Vehicles and Space Systems before advancing to section head for Space Communications. More recently, Hudson was responsible for administering several of the Center's major service contracts including two current onsite contractors: InDyne, Inc. for administrative services, and JDD, Inc. for janitorial services.

Edward Zak, 63, who retired in 1995 after 30 years of NASA service, recently died. Zak was a practicing attorney who also served as legal advisor for the Center, and negotiated several high-profile projects such as the Atlas/Centaur rocket program and Cleveland Clinic partnership. During his tenure, Zak also received an Exceptional Service Medal. However, one of his proudest accomplishments was helping to establish the onsite daycare facility, Lewis Little Folks, Inc.

Building residents recognized with Patriotic Employer Award

BY S.JENISE VERIS


THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR EMPLOYER SUPPORT OF THE GUARD AND RESERVE
RECOGNIZES
Building 86
NASA Glenn Research Center
AS A
ESGR
PATRIOTIC EMPLOYER
FOR CONTRIBUTING TO NATIONAL SECURITY AND PROTECTING LIBERTY AND FREEDOM
BY SUPPORTING EMPLOYEE PARTICIPATION IN AMERICA'S NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE FORCE

Building residents know that even the smallest showing of support from home can be the biggest boost to the morale of our troops overseas. Over the past year they have raised over $650 in cash and hundreds of pounds in donated goods for the troops. Their efforts were recognized with the Patriotic Employer Award, given by the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR).

To earn an ESGR award, employers must be nominated by an individual guard member or reservist, and depending on the documented level of support, can rise to earn the top "Employer Support Freedom Award," given by the Nation's Secretary of Defense. Glenn employee and U.S. Army Reservist Michelle Rhodes (IDI), Nozzle Branch, nominated her fellow residents for their extraordinary support not only to her own unit—the 2nd Psychological Operations Group—but also to several other Reserve units deployed to Iraq.

"A lot of the donations represent a spontaneous outpouring of support for the troops because residents know people from their community or have relatives serving," Rhodes said. "However, the entire building's consistent efforts both monetarily and in goods to support several ongoing projects was the reason for my nomination."

Food and funds that were raised from various projects were initiated by the following members of the Engineering Development Division: Chuck Sheehe, donuts; Alicia Camburako (IDI) and Charlotte Kwiat, "Support our Troops" magnets; and Scott Cutlip, goods dropoff at Michaud's in Strongsville. The cash was used to purchase CDs, DVDs, and books for Christmas. ◆

In Memory

A mentor on the move will be missed


Witcher

Frank Witcher, 50, a technical specialist with the onsite contractor Lockheed Martin Information Technology, recently died. For the past 8 years of a 15-year career on Lab (which included work with other contractors), Witcher supported Glenn's Educational Programs Office as the team lead for the Mobile Aerospace Education Laboratory (MAEL), a 55-foot high-tech mobile classroom with 10 workstations. The MAEL features curricula to excite and encourage students to pursue careers in science, engineering, math, or aviation. Witcher traveled nearly 100,000 miles aboard the MAEL to 39 states, including Alaska and the District of Columbia, where he mentored over 33,000 students and interfaced with members of Congress, academia, and parents. Witcher earned the nickname "Super Dad" for his commitment to the program and patience working with the many at-risk children who needed extra help to complete the MAEL curriculum. Witcher's untimely death left a significant void in the MAEL team. He will be missed by his teammates and thousands of children.

Glenn debuts new public Web site

BY S.JENISE VERIS

A Glenn Web page makeover, which engages the public through an attractive design, was unveiled recently. The new site integrates Glenn's home page into an Agencywide portal connecting all NASA missions and field centers. Now, visitors to www.grc.nasa.gov will be automatically redirected to www.nasa.gov/glenn for a cohesive presentation of Glenn news and information. The new address should be used in all communications.

Glenn's Home Page Portal Integration Team worked with the Agency's prime contractor, eTouch Systems, to import hundreds of Web pages and thousands of images. About 100 new Web pages have been generated over the last 3 months.

"The task required physical migration of Web content from all the field center home pages and public affairs sites to the secure, robust Portal infrastructure," said Mary Ann Bents, CIO Policy and Planning Office, team lead and project manager. "The consolidation provides a means to establish a standard look and feel, as well as increased visibility for all centers. It also imposes a formal editorial process to enhance quality of content that over time will prove beneficial to NASA and the viewing public."

While several employees have lent their support upon request, the core team responsible for the portal implementation includes David DeFelice, Community and Media Relations Office; Jimmy Gonzalez, Enterprise Applications Branch; Dave Mazza (RSIS), Educational Programs Office; Kelly Heidman (RSIS), Computational Environments Branch; Jennifer Sapienza (RSIS), Office of the Chief Information Officer; Nancy O'Bryan (IDI), and Gary Nolan (IDI), Logistics and Technical Services Division; and Angela Spruce (IDI), Community and Media Relations Office.

The migration of Glenn material to the portal has been relatively transparent for the convenience of Glenn internal and external customers. Web addresses for all other existing Glenn Web sites hosted on the central Web server are still recognized and will not be affected by portal linking.

"I am pleased with the new look and greater opportunities to tell the Glenn story to the world," said DeFelice, who has been involved in the Agency's Web planning for almost a decade and now serves as the Center's representative on the NASA Editorial Board. "It's the culmination of our efforts to see NASA's activities and contributions in a consolidated medium that meets the needs of our growing external audience." ◆

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